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To Lord Berwick.

My LORD,

AFTER the various ſuppoſitions, and the various reports, which have been propagated concerning the *author* or *authors* of the ſcurrilous papers, ſigned *Fidelis*, *Alfred*, &c. I was not a little ſurprized this evening, on being told, that theſe papers were written by a man, whoſe name is H—N-, who now lives at W————N. The peculiarity of the ſtyle, and the numerous *quotations from plays*, with which thoſe papers abound, ſeem to encourage ſuch an opinion; but HE has alſo declared that *he is engaged to write*, and further *that he does not care whoſe character he aſperſes, ſupported, as he ſays, he is by ſome high patronage.* I am inclined to hope, that HIS declaration is not founded on truth; ſince *his general character* carries with it the deſcription of one, who is NON-COMPOS, and who being a man *deſtitute of every honourable principle*, can reflect but very *little credit* on any *worthy* employers.

However I think it behoves *your party* to contradict the report, that the *defence of their cauſe* reſts upon ſuch a man; or their *ſilence* may perhaps, give me reaſon to conclude that he really is *their champion.*

In the latter caſe, as it would be *madneſs* to contend with *him*; and as HIS writings will be eaſily diſcovered, I ſhall let *him* reſt in his *original obſcurity*, and direct my remonſtrances, to another quarter, eſteeming that a more *prudent* method of counteracting, a MASKED ASSASSIN, than, to enter into controverſy with one who PROTEUS like, will appear in a thouſand forms; and whoſe *only argument* lies in producing a number of *quotations* from *plays*, *novels*, and *romances*.

VERAX.

Shrewſbury, Feb. 12, 1796.